

Message

From: Lee, Bessie [Lee.Bessie@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/27/2014 7:06:50 PM
To: Wytewa, Sahmie [sahmie.wytewa@BIE.EDU]; Stevens, Bartholomew [Bart.Stevens@BIE.EDU]
CC: North, Eric [Eric.North@BIE.EDU]; Douma, Elmer [Elmer.Douma@BIE.EDU]; lpuhuyesva@hopi.nsn.us; Adam Hughes [adam.hughes@ihs.gov]; Lorenz, Robert (IHS/PHX) [Robert.Lorenz@ihs.gov]; John Hamilton [john.hamilton@ihs.gov]
Subject: Re: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

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Bessie Lee

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Drinking Water Management Section (WTR-3-1)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105
Phone: (415) 972-3776
Fax: (415) 947-3549
E-mail: lee.bessie@epa.gov

From: Wytewa, Sahmie
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 09:09
To: Stevens, Bartholomew
Cc: North, Eric; Douma, Elmer; Lee, Bessie
Subject: RE: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Good Morning,

Just to clarify, the Hopi Tribe used the facilities to hold a public meeting to share information of the Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project with community stakeholders. It was a public meeting to share the timelines, the areas that the project would address, give historical information, and in essence, garner support for the project to continue its' progress. It is done in a public forum, with question and answer opportunities.

I was in for a short bit of it and it was overall a positive meeting where people were being informed. I do not recall there being any direct statements from the program staff or representatives to stop drinking the water.

Bessie,

In the interim of a final determination or some general clarification, we are supplying staff & classrooms with bottled water. I read your detailed information of progress below, however, I do not see a reference to having established whether the water is safe/unsafe for consumption or cooking with.

I also would like to know if you are aware of vendors the tribe or other groups are working with to provide water supplies to meet our needs as we prepare 2 meals a day for students through the months of August to May.

I am attaching the letter that Ivan Sidney delivered to our offices yesterday for your information. If there are any items in the contents of that letter that need to be addressed or clarified, I ask that you let us know and make contact with Mr. Sidney to do the same so that we are on the same page with information.

I just got off the phone with Ivan Sidney as well, he is proposing a collective meeting possibly on October 14 or sometime next week during the day to discuss any concerns and come to similar understandings. We can host the meeting here if anyone is able to come out or participate by teleconference. Please let him or I know your availability.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated,

Ms. Wytewa

From: Douma, Elmer
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 3:44 PM
To: Lee, Bessie
Cc: Stevens, Bartholomew; Wytewa, Sahmie
Subject: RE: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Bessie, Yes add Bart to the list. I think I sat in on 2 meetings but after that I have been real busy with our Schools that I can't seem to sit too long without emergencies coming up that needs to be taken care of by Facilities. The problem we had is HAMP came to the First Mesa School and informed the staff that our water was out of compliance and they ran

with it and telling all the staff and children we were drinking Poison Water at our School. This info went to the Employees Union, then to Bart Stevens. So now we had to shut down all drinking fountains and in the process of getting bottled water for the School.

From: Lee, Bessie [mailto:Lee.Bessie@epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 10:51 AM

To: Douma, Elmer

Cc: lpuhuyesva@hopi.nsn.us; Adam Hughes; Robert Lorenz; John Hamilton; Li, Corine; Albright, David

Subject: RE: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Elmer,

The Polacca water system has water that contains arsenic above the primary drinking water standard of 10 ug/L. The Polacca water system serves the First Mesa Elementary School. The Polacca water system has been out of compliance with the arsenic standard since January 2006.

The arsenic drinking water standard (Arsenic Rule) was adopted on January 22, 2001. The Arsenic Rule was implemented/became enforceable on January 23, 2006. In March 2011, the Polacca water system entered into an Arsenic Compliance Plan with USEPA. The plan identified how the Polacca water system would return to compliance with the arsenic standard, which is to tie into the Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP), a regional water system with source wells that contain arsenic at levels below the drinking water standard.

For the last 4 or 5 years, there have been monthly calls about the HAMP with all the stakeholders. The calls are the first Thursday of every month starting at 9:30 a.m. Hopi Time. You are on the distribution list for the monthly calls, as well as the notes from the monthly calls. Normally, Eldine Stevens and Wendell Honanie are on the calls representing Office of Indian Affairs and BIA, respectively. David Talayumptewa, Dennis Rodriguez, Jack Sullivan, Jaylene Sanchez, Marlene Walker are also on the distribution list for the calls, as well as the call notes. (With the passing of Glenn Ellison, I was asked to add Jack Sullivan and Marlene Walker to the distribution list.)

The status of activities to date for the HAMP:

- Two new source wells have been drilled in the Turquoise Trail area. The water quality and quantity of water in the two wells are very good. Arsenic levels in the waters from each well are less than the primary drinking water standard for arsenic. In addition, the capacity of just one of the wells can meet the demands of the four water systems that will be tying into the HAMP.
- The Hopi Tribe will be submitting an application for about \$17 million to USDA-RD to fully fund the remaining activities of the HAMP. (USEPA funding of about \$5 million was used to drill the wells and complete documents associated with the project.) This application will be for about 75% grant / 25% loan. As required by USDA, a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), and a Strategic Plan have been prepared and will be included in the funding application package to USDA. The Draft EA will finish its public comment period in October 2014. Depending on the comments received by IHS, IHS hopes to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in late October/early November 2014 for the project. Comments from the Hopi Tribe and the affected villages to the PER and the Strategic Plan should be provided to IHS in the same time period as for the Draft EA. Hopefully, the application package can be submitted by the Hopi Tribe to USDA before the end of the calendar year. Since USDA has been participating in the monthly calls about the HAMP for the last couple of years, they are aware of the issues associated with the HAMP.
- Public meetings about the HAMP were held on September 10 and 11, 2014 at the First Mesa Elementary School and Second Mesa Day School, respectively. Elements in the PER, Draft EA and Strategic Plan were presented during the meeting, as well as a status to date of the project.
- A cost analysis was conducted by IHS to evaluate the use of generators or bringing in power to the well field in the Turquoise Trail area. The analysis indicated that bringing in power to the well field was the most economical in the long term. APS has been extremely slow in getting a cost estimate to the Hopi Tribe for bringing in power to the well field. It is expected the cost will be in the millions.
- The Hopi Public Utility Authority (HPUA) was established through a tribal resolution in 2013. HPUA will be the operator of the HAMP.
- There are still documents that the Hopi Tribal Council needs to act on with respect to the HAMP. These documents include the agreements between the affected villages and the Hopi Tribe.
- IHS and the Hopi Tribe have been in discussions with the Office of Indian Affairs to tie in the BIA Keams Canyon, Second Mesa Day School, and Hopi Junior/Senior High School water systems to the HAMP. Office of Indian Affairs is providing \$150,000 to IHS for planning activities associated with tying in the three BIA/BIE facilities to the HAMP.

Hopefully, the agreement between IHS and Office of Indian Affairs for the planning activities can be signed by late 2014/early 2015.

The HAMP continues to move forward. With the completion of the various documents, the next step is for the Hopi Tribal Council to approve the documents and submit the funding package to USDA. USEPA will continue to provide annual funding for the HAMP. But the amount of funding is not enough to fully fund the project.

I hope this information helps. If you want, I can add Bart Stevens to the distribution list for the monthly calls.

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Bessie Lee

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Drinking Water Management Section (WTR-3-1)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

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E-mail: lee.bessie@epa.gov

From: Douma, Elmer [<mailto:Elmer.Douma@BIE.EDU>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 8:16 AM

To: Lee, Bessie

Subject: FW: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Ms. Lee, I need your help with this information from your office on the water at First Mesa Elementary School in Polacca Arizona. Bart Stevens, Associate Deputy Director of BIE Schools has concerns of the water at First Mesa Elementary School so can you answer these questions he is asking. We did get an Annual Water Quality Report from Polacca Water System #090400106 for 2013. I mentioned the MCL/Arsenic level at 10 ppb, but Polacca's water is at 19 ppb. Can you explain what is going on with the new water system being installed for the villages on the East end of the Reservation/Hopi. CC me, Thank you.

From: Stevens, Bartholomew

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 6:46 AM

To: Douma, Elmer

Cc: Wytewa, Sahmie; North, Eric; Lee, Deborah

Subject: Fwd: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

I am not understanding the reading levels. I don't know what is safe for our staff and student since I just learned of this information. I need to know how long you have known this and what you've been told and by whom of what is safe.

Until I have documentation that it is safe for our students and staff I am directing all water fountains to be shut off. I also want bottled water delivered for staff and student use immediately.

Is it safe to wash dishes/hands/etc.? If not large quantities of water need to be available for the kitchen staff.

Look into these questions immediately so that we can share information with our stakeholders. Has information been shared before?

I am expecting a response by this afternoon.

Bart Stevens

Associate Deputy Director - BIE Operated Schools

Bureau of Indian Education

Office 505.563.5235

Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Fax 505.563.5345

Begin forwarded message:

From: David Garza <dgarza@fise-aft.org>

Date: October 6, 2014 at 9:20:34 AM MST

To: "Stevens, Bartholomew" <Bart.Stevens@BIE.EDU>

Cc: 'Eric.' <North@bie.edu>, Sue Parton <sparton@fise-aft.org>

Subject: RE: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Bart,

It seems that Keams has worked on the issue by providing the students and staff with bottled water but what is FMES doing to protect the students and staff there? The Union is concerned that management is not providing the needed protection to both school especially because as you stated "over the last two years regarding the arsenic levels in the water at First Mesa Elementary School without clear information".

Please let FISE know what management plans to do to be sure that the staff and students are being protected of any potential harm while at the worksite.

David Garza

dgarza@fise-aft.org

(c) Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

(f) 505-243-4098

From: Stevens, Bartholomew [<mailto:Bart.Stevens@BIE.EDU>]

Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 9:22 AM

To: David Garza

Cc: 'Eric.'; Sue Parton

Subject: RE: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

The AN ELO facility manager has received an Annual Public Water System Quality Report from Polacca Water Department (PWD) which states they are in violation of arsenic levels in the Polacca area. The ppb units threshold set by EPA is 10 ppb and Polacca is at 19 ppb and sometimes higher. The facility manager continues to ask the PWD over the last two years regarding the arsenic levels in the water at First Mesa Elementary School without clear information other than being told that a new project to bring better water to Polacca after 2015 is in progress now with IHS and EPA. If the actual report is needed it can be provided. BIA has set up a new filtration system through their water system for Keams Canyon Elementary School, and EPA is monitoring alongside BIA.

Let me know if you have additional questions. Thanks

Bart Stevens

Associate Deputy Director - BIE Operated Schools

Bureau of Indian Education

Office 505.563.5235

Cell (c) Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Fax 505.563.5345

From: David Garza [<mailto:dgarza@fise-aft.org>]

Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 7:32 AM

To: Stevens, Bartholomew

Cc: 'Eric.'; Sue Parton

Subject: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Bart,

I received a call from an employee, who wishes to stay anonymous, that there is a report stating that there are high levels of arsenic in the Hopi village. The schools do not have the required safety committees that are required by the CBA so I cannot reach out to any employees that might have clearer information on this. I do send out an annual email to principals in my area of all the required committees. The rumors seems to have some validity as staff at Keams Canyon BS are not drinking the piped water and have bottled water supplied to the staff and students. Can FISE have an update on the issues with the water levels that maybe affecting FISE's concerned constituents? Thank you.

David Garza

dgarza@fise-aft.org

(c) Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

(f) 505-243-4098